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### Thule Times Editorial Staff

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# Play to live, live to play during critical days of summer

**Tech. Sgt. Kimberley Harrison**  
 Air Force Space Command public affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- "Play to Live, Live to Play" is the theme for 2009's Critical Days of Summer which officially begins May 22 and runs through Labor Day, Sept. 7.

"Sometimes our lives and the lives of others depend on the choices we make," said Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command.

Due to increased activity levels during the summer months, the Air Force annually promotes the Critical Days campaign as an important reminder to continually practice safety habits in order to reduce the number of mishaps. By focusing on safety, accidents can be avoided.

"Historically, we lose more personnel to vehicle mishaps than any other type of activity. We must learn from our mistakes and those of others," General Kehler said.

During the past three AFSPC summer campaigns, there have been slight increases in total mishaps - 2006: 65 mishaps; 2007: 67 mishaps; and in 2008: 73 total mishaps: 27 on-duty; 46 off-duty (1 fatality).

In order to increase safety awareness, think about what, where and how an activity's going to be done. Prior to participating in recreational activities such as water sports, long-distance traveling or motorcycle riding, be aware of the challenges and limitations and practice risk management.

"Our folks must apply the simple rules of risk management and personal responsibility around the clock," said Col. Edward Rivera, AFSPC director of safety. "Risk management is simply identifying potential risks about to



Courtesy graphic

## Summer fun

be taken. A former boss always told me to remember the three Ps: Plan, Predict and Prevent. If this concept is applied to all your summer activities; it may save your life. And most important stick to the plan! Interviews from past injuries are showing our folks are doing a great job of developing a plan but then not sticking to the plan," Colonel Rivera said.

It's important to support and promote the summer campaign through education, publicity and awareness programs, focusing on any specific targeted areas.

Supervisors are encouraged to hold face-to-face safety briefings and discuss risk management strategies with their Airmen before they go on leave or before long holiday weekends such as Memorial Day weekend.

----- Play to live,  
**See page 3**

# Participation key to TAPA success

**Tech. Sgt. Jamie Galan**  
**TAPA president**

What can the Thule Association of Professional Airmen do for you? A simple question with a simple answer: anything you need. TAPA is the executive council that encompasses all three professional organizations: Top III, Rising VI and CGO council. TAPA is streamlined to ensure you don't have three different organizations lobbying for your attention, time and money.

TAPA is responsible for developing and staffing all professional development courses to include first term airman's courses and NCO enhancement seminars.

TAPA is built upon leadership, professionalism and recognition. With Air Force Space Command focused on the "Year of Leadership,"

Thule is a great place to make a difference. There are many great opportunities to volunteer and take a leadership role. Throughout the summer, we will send out information requesting volunteers or committee leads for different events such as the NCO enhancement seminar, barbeque at the Pavilion, promotion release parties, quarterly award ceremonies, combat dining-in, Battle of the Rock band, golf tournament and more. We are always looking for new ideas and events. If you want to see something happen on Thule bring it up to any TAPA representative, Rising VI, CGO, or Top III meetings.

Recognition is also key and vital to TAPA's success; we feel you should be rewarded for a job well done with an event that enhances unit camaraderie and



FRONT



BACK

Shiny Silver Nickel

Courtesy graphic

**Thule Association of Professional Airmen coin**

morale. We are in the final stages of finalizing TAPA's on the spot "Professional Performer" award, which is a quick and easy way to nominate anyone who has done a particular task or day-to-day job in an outstanding fashion.

Nothing just happens of its own accord. It takes people

focused on objectives with the appropriate resources, guidance and intent to get work done. We need you to support your organization; we all thrive by increasing professionalism and morale on Thule. Participation by every organization on base will ensure TAPA's success. You can make a difference!

## 2009 Critical Days of Summer

**General C. Robert Kehler**  
**Air Force Space Command commander**

Our nation is still engaged in a conflict that puts our Airmen in harm's way. Please continue to keep our service members in your hearts, on your minds and in your prayers.

Memorial Day marks the beginning of the 2009 Critical Days of Summer -- a time of increased risk due to summer time activities. Historically, we lose more personnel to vehicle mishaps than any other type of activity (2008 = 18 fatalities). We must learn from our mistakes and those of others.

Commanders, be sure your summer safety campaigns aggressively address topics such as water sports, traveling long distances, motorcycle riding, and

sports/outdoor activities. Remind our troops that excessive consumption of alcohol kills. It is the third leading cause of death in the United States (more than 79,000 per year) and has adverse health consequences and unintentional injuries.

Supervisors, hold face-to-face safety briefings and discuss risk management strategies with your people before they go on leave. Don't sign that leave paperwork until you're convinced they understand the risks and are taking them seriously.

To all Air Force Space Command personnel, make smart choices this summer. Remember that we're all mortal and sometimes our lives and the lives of others depend on the choices we make. Wear your seat belt every time you get into a car. Wear the

proper motorcycle protective equipment every time you ride. Don't drive after drinking or when you're fatigued -- ever. If you drink, do it with moderation and avoid participating in activities that require good judgment and dexterity. Think seriously about safety. Be sure you are around the celebrate Labor Day.

Our safety campaign has proven effective in the past, but like the suicide prevention and Wingman programs, you are the key to its success. Be good Wingmen. Be vigilant and willing to act when you see someone taking unnecessary risks or exhibiting signs of distress. We cannot afford to lose any of our Air Force Space Command family members. You are irreplaceable. I am proud to serve side-by-side with you. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

## AIR FORCE BAND VISITS THULE

Top: Tech. Sgt. Julie Bradley and Master Sgt. Jerome Oddo, AFA Band Wild Blue Country, perform a popular country tune at the Top of the World Club May 14. This was the first time in several years an Air Force band visited Thule.

Right: Col. Jay Raymond, 21st Space Wing commander, introduces the Air Force Academy Band Wild Blue Country to Team Thule May 14 in the Top of the World Club. The popular country band performed for Thule residents for two hours. The group also went on a mission familiarization tour during their 20-hour stay and played acoustic songs for shift workers.



### ----- Play to live, From page 1

Some of the things that should be considered for discussion include common mistakes Airmen make, but with a little fore thought could possibly prevent a mishap or fatality.

"Wear your seat belt every time you get into a car. Wear the proper motorcycle protective equipment every time you ride. Don't drive after drinking or when you're fatigued -- ever, and think seriously about safety," said General Kehler.

The Air Force Safety Center

Critical Days of Summer Campaign Plan contains themes, listed below, for each week of the summer campaign to aid commanders or supervisors in planning safety topics during the summer :

- Week 1 - May 26 -June 2: Motorcycle/Sport Bike Safety
- Week 2 - June 3-9: Water Safety/Suicide prevention
- Week 3 - June 10-16: Motorcycle/Cruiser Bike Safety
- Week 4 - June 17-23: Alcohol Related Mishap Prevention
- Week 5 - June 24-30: Boating Safety
- Week 6 - July 1-6: 4th

of July Holiday and Fireworks Safety

- Week 7 - July 7-13: Summer Heat Safety
- Week 8 - July 14-20: Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety
- Week 9 - July 21-27: Defensive Driving/4WPMV Safety
- Week 10 - July 28 - August 3: Grilling/Barbeque Safety
- Week 11 - August 4-10: Countering Fatigue
- Week 12 - August 11-17: Sports Risk Management
- Week 13 - August 18-24: Travel Safety
- Week 14 - August 25-31: Labor Day Safety

• Week 15 - September 1-7: Back to School Safety/Fall Campaign ramp up

So, before plans are made this summer, keep these points in mind:

- Risk management
- Be a good Wingman
- Make safety a habit

"Our safety campaign has proven effective in the past, but like the suicide prevention and Wingman programs - you are the key to its success. Be good Wingmen. Be vigilant and willing to act when you see someone taking unnecessary risks or exhibiting signs of distress," General Kehler said.



# New Web site design before end of 2009

**Staff Sgt. Vanessa Young  
Defense Media Activity  
San Antonio**

SAN ANTONIO -- Thule's Web site, <http://www.thule.af.mil>, will be sporting a new look before the end of 2009 when it implements the new force-wide official Web site design.

The new design was first released on the AF.mil Web site, <http://www.af.mil>, May 16. For frequent visitors to official Air Force Web sites, some of the changes will be obvious at a glance.

The redesigned site features a larger layout, larger photos, new technology and less clutter. It offers users new content types with the inclusion of slide shows, new video capability, blog-like commenting on content and improved search capability.

"We're excited to be rolling out the new design and template for Air Force Public Web," said Larry Clavette, the director of the Air Force Public Affairs Agency and the owner of the Air Force Public Web Program. "The new design packages a lot of features our users asked for. The site itself

offers more room to display content. The design is streamlined; it has a neat, clean look and feel. Our main goal here was to make things easier to find and easier to navigate."

The Air Force Public Web Program, only a few years old, is a service-wide effort to consolidate all public Web sites to improve security, reduce redundancy, increase performance and standardize site appearance across the 315 sites in the program.

The new design is the culmination of almost a year of work that includes research, focus groups and system development, testing and deployment. The whole process began when Air Force officials launched a usability survey in 2007. The research determined users liked the rich content of AF.mil, but commented on the poor navigation.

According to Mike Carabaja, AF.mil webmaster, a main priority of the redesign was to re-evaluate the information on the Web site and 'trim the fat' to keep the design clear of clutter while offering more to users.

The most visible changes of the redesign are the white



Courtesy photo

**Air Force officials launched a re-designed official Web site, AF.mil. The redesigned site features a larger layout, larger photos, new technology and less clutter. It offers users new content types with the inclusion of slide shows, new video capability, blog-like commenting on content and improved search capability.**

space and the fewer links and tabs. The new design features only three top navigation links versus the old site's 13 links and displays half the number of sections to make information easier to find.

The site also features new technology that allows users to comment on content posted on the site, embed video capability and a redesigned, customizable photo and art gallery.

"We're excited to unveil the

new templates and get user feedback to see how we've met their expectations," Mr. Clavette said. "Web technology and innovation is a never ending pursuit for improvement and capability. The cycle begins anew now for us."

Toward that goal, some AF.mil visitors will have the opportunity to comment on the usability and the new features of the site through a pop-up survey beginning in June.

## TRACKING ICE

This NASA-owned P-3B Earth Science Aircraft is pulled out of a hangar at Thule to embark on a flight over the arctic. Using laser altimeters, sounding radar and snow depth radar, NASA scientists monitored outlet glaciers of ice sheets and sea ice to track changes in surface elevation and positioning. Thule served as the staging base for the P-3B aircraft and its crews from the end of March through early May.



Photo by Col. Tom Peppard

# NASA testing new radars at Thule

**1st Lt. Lisa Meiman**  
**821st Air Base Group public affairs**

Thule Air Base is serving as a staging base for a NASA crew to monitor changes in Greenland's and Iceland's ice caps using newly developed radars that may make their way into space in the future.

From May 2 to June 8, a Gulfstream III aircraft carrying up to 10 NASA employees and two types of radar will fly about 15 six-hour trips over the ice caps.

"Multiple accurate passes allows us to see changes in thickness, flow and surface of the ice," said Mike Holtz, operation engineer.

The purpose of NASA's operation is two-fold. First, the measurements support the international polar year mission -- a multinational effort committed to studying how arctic regions of the Earth are changing. Second, the crew is using new and pre-existing technology, both testing and validating the tools and measurements in current and future satellite operations.

"Thule has supported the scientific community for years by providing a base of operations in a unique arctic environment. By doing this, the Air Force can assist in making new discoveries and noting changes about our planet to the benefit of humankind," said Col. Tom Peppard, 821st Air Base Group commander. "We have always shared a strong partnership with NASA and its research and data collection operations and are proud to have the air crews here now."

The radars on the aircraft, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, may possibly be used in future space-based radars. This operation helps evaluate the usefulness and accuracy of the new radars. The L-band synthetic aperture radar will survey flow and

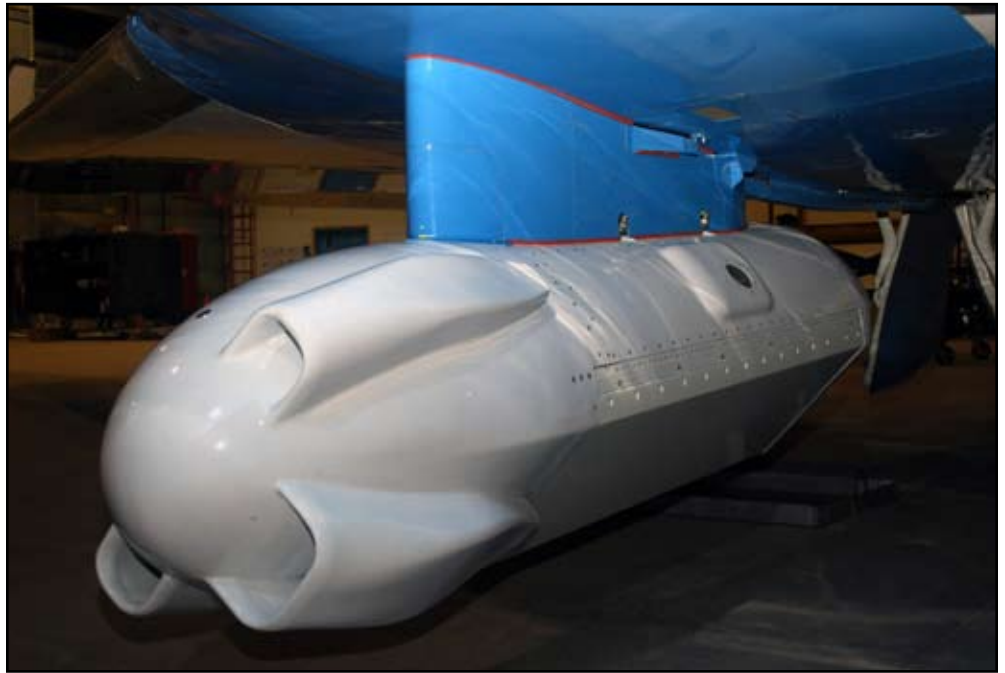


Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

**This pod attached to the bottom of NASA's Gulfstream III aircraft contains the civilian world's first L-band synthetic aperture radar meant to measure ice flow and thickness several hundred feet under the ice's surface. Another radar will survey the ice's surface as a NASA operation staged at Thule from May 2 to June 8 makes multiple passes over the Greenland and Iceland ice caps. The purpose of the operation is to support the international polar year organization that tracks changes in the Earth's arctic regions and test the two radars, which may be used in future space-based platforms.**

thickness several hundred feet under the ice's surface, and a KA-band glacier and land ice surface interferometer will capture surface imagery.

"We need to compare what's happening below the ice with what's happening above," Mr. Holtz said.

In order to ensure the plane continues to fly the same route each pass during the operation and years into the future, the plane is also equipped with a platform precision autopilot operational engine, which keeps the aircraft within 32 feet (10 meters) of its previously recorded flight path.

"PPA allows for much more precise flying. We can come back months or years later and still follow the same flight path within those 10 meters," said

Mr. Holtz, a former Air Force officer.

The crew performs about three sorties a week each lasting about six hours.

The crew, all from California, is in constant contact with the Thule weather shop to stay current with northern Greenland's often unpredictable and sometimes violent weather.

"We've been pretty well accommodated. The ground crews have been great, and kudos for letting us stay in the hangar. It's been fantastic," Mr. Holtz said.

The plane is an Air Force version of a C-20 Gulfstream aircraft on loan from the Air Force. It's capable of flying at high altitudes and speed for about seven hours.





Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Air Force Space Command commander, greets Thule leadership May 11 at the Thule airfield. General Kehler and his wife visited Thule May 11-12 on their way to a commander's conference in Germany.



## AFSPC CC visits Thule

General Kehler speaks to two security forces airmen patrolling at the ballistic missile early warning system. General Kehler wanted to check on the status of the upgraded early warning radar transformation, which would bring the missile warning operations center from the 1970s to the 21st century in terms of software and hardware technology.

General Kehler observes 2nd Lt. Tayala Jones, 12th Space Warning Squadron, as she trains with two other missile warning crew members in the UEWR simulator. Training the crews is vital to ensuring the new UEWR system is fully operational this summer. Mrs. Kehler spent her time visiting quality of life facilities and issues at the main base.





# Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

Above: Tracey White, 821st Support Squadron services flight, serves himself Asian Pacific food from the buffet at the Pavilion May 23. Thule residents cooked authentic Asian Pacific meals such as pansit, limpia, chicken adobo and more.

Right: Senior Airman Arthur Brown, 821st Support Squadron, goes low during the limbo competition.



Above: Senior Airman Danilynn Leszewski, 821st Security Forces Squadron, and Senior Airman Cheryl Lui, 12th Space Warning Squadron, perform hula dances for attendees.

Left: Staff Sgt. Mahalia Eans, 821st Support Squadron communications flight, launches her paper airplane during the paper airplane flight competition at the fitness center May 23. Participants competed for the longest flight time during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event that recognized the origami aspect of many of the Pacific Island cultures.

# AF leaders name next top enlisted leader

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley have announced the Airman selected to be the service's next enlisted leader.

Chief Master Sergeant James A. Roy will become the 16th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force during an appointment ceremony on June 30, 2009, which will coincide with Chief McKinley's retirement.

"This is a good day for all Airmen," General Schwartz said. "While they will lose a tremendous leader and advocate in Chief McKinley, they gain a worthy successor in Chief Roy. Given his record and reputation, I am confident that Chief Roy will carry the best interests of our Air Force family forward to our nation's leaders as we support today's joint fight and rebalance our force for the challenges ahead."

Chief Roy and his wife Paula will come to the Pentagon from Camp Smith, Hawaii, where the chief currently serves as the senior enlisted leader and advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander, representing more than 200,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors



Courtesy graphic

Chief Master Sgt. James A. Roy has been selected to replace Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, who will be retiring at the end of June. Chief Roy currently is the senior enlisted advisor to the U.S. Pacific Command combatant commander.

and Marines.

Chief Roy joined the Air Force in 1982. His career includes assignments as a heavy equipment operator in the civil engineer career field and then in leadership positions at the squadron, group, and numbered air force levels. He has served as the command chief master sergeant at wings in Air Education and Training Command, Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command. He was also deployed as the command chief master sergeant of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia. Prior to assuming his current position he was the command chief

master sergeant for U.S. Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Chief McKinley will retire next month after serving for 30 years. He has served as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force since June 30, 2006.

"Chief McKinley has devoted his entire adult life to our Air Force and to taking care of Airmen and their families," General Schwartz said. "He has accomplished so much throughout his career, but as Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, he and his wife Paula have made monumental contributions."

## Thule Spotlight



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### FIRST BBQ OF 2009

Team Thule celebrates the coming of summer with the year's first barbeque at the community center May 16. Community center staff served hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken breasts and an assortment of pastas. Thule residents can grill their own barbeque items at the community center every Saturday and Sunday through the summer.





Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

### SPINNING TALES

Team Thule pushes through the third straight hour of a three-hour spinning class held at the fitness center May 17. Pernille Boe (right), the third of three gym instructors, encourages the tired athletes. Each spinner received a certificate of completion after completing the marathon.



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman



### THULE COMMEMORATES NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Left: Security Forces Airmen lower the American flag during a formal retreat ceremony May 15 in front of Bldg. 461. The retreat commemorated National Police Week, which is meant to recognize fallen officers worldwide. Denmark and Greenland officials also participated in the ceremony.

Above: Lt. Col. Rob Quigg, 821st Air Base Group deputy commander, and 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman, 821st ABG public affairs, are judged by the Honorable Capt. Dan Massey, 821st Security Forces commander, for specific infractions during the Jail-N-Bail fund raiser at the community center May 21. The money raised was donated to scholarships for dependents of fallen police officers in recognition of National Police Week. Thule residents could press "charges" against their coworkers for a small price, and the accused could also bail themselves out of jail for a small fee.



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Thule's newest master sergeant selects: Tech. Sgts. Shannon Herring, 22nd Space Operations Squadron Detachment 3; Steven Byer, 821st Security Forces Squadron; Jamie Galan, 821st Air Base Group finance; Josef Rodriguez, 821st Support Squadron communications flight; Jeff Macal, 12th Space Warning Squadron; Omar Zermeno-Rubio, 821st SPTS logistics flight; and Dave Slone, 821st SPTS communications flight.

## Thule Promotions



Capt. Eric Visger



Capt. Keith Harrigan



Staff Sgt.  
Danilynn Leszewski



Photos by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

1st Lt. Michelle Dieringer



Master Sgt. Daryl Hogan



# JUNE EVENTS

**Sunday****Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****Saturday**

	1	2	3 Circuit training gym every Wednesday	4	5 Pituffik Poker Tour CC  Constitution Day (DK)	6 D-Day  Flea Market TOW  Mr/Mrs Thule challenge gym
7  Trip to the Ice Caves CC  Prince Joachim's B-day	8	9	10	11  Prince Henrik's B-day	12	13  Trip to the Secret Place 1400 CC
14  GPS treasure hunt gym	15  Day of Valdemar and Reunion Day	16	17	18  SFS Change of Command 1030  Det 3 Change of Command 1400	19	20  Trip to Camp Tuto CC
21 Father's Day	22	23  Midsummer Bonfire 1800 CC  Saint John's Eve	24	25  12SWS Change of Command 1500	26	27  Little Bit of Asia meal TOW  Trip to BMEWS and old radar 1400 CC  Duathlon gym
28	29	30				

# First Knight

## CE readiness NCO recognized for outstanding performance

### 821st Support Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management

Tech. Sgt. Kristi Lawrence was selected for the First Knight award for the week of May 21. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.

The First Knight is awarded by each unit's leadership to an Airman who is deserving of recognition for their outstanding mission support, adherence to the Air Force's Core Values, and who epitomizes the vision of the 21st Space Wing.

**Name:** Tech. Sgt. Kristi Lawrence

**Unit:** 821st Support Squadron

**Duty Title:** Readiness and Emergency Management

**Time in service:** 18 years

**Time assigned to the unit:** 5 months

**Hometown:** Scobey, Mont.

**Hobbies:** Spending time



Photo by 1st Lt. Lisa Meiman

**Tech. Sgt. Kristi Lawrence was selected for the First Knight award for the week of May 21. This award is designed to recognize outstanding Airmen each week for the work they do every day.**

with my family, reading and playing volleyball

**Favorite music:** Eighties and country

**Last good movie:** "Taken"

**Last good book:** "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch

**Why selected:** "Sergeant Lawrence performed as I would expect any subject matter expert to perform when taking over a

new position. She took the time to understand how the current process worked, evaluated it and then found ways to make it better and more efficient. She is doing her part to make Thule better, and her efforts will keep the mission going and its people safe if a natural disaster or major accident happens to strike Thule Air Base," said Capt. Jason Tomcho, 821st Support Squadron Civil Engineer flight commander.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING IN THE AIR FORCE?

"The Air Force has given me a lifetime of unforgettable experiences and opportunities. I've had the chance to travel across the world, experience the culture of more than 13 different countries and develop lasting friendships. The opportunities and challenges the Air Force has given me are endless and the whole military experience has helped me to become a better person" - *Sergeant Lawrence.*

## The 21st Space Wing MISSION

**"Conduct flawless missile warning and space control operations, provide unsurpassed installation support and protection, while developing and deploying Warrior Airmen to defend America and our Allies."**

